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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 27, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claim(s) 1-22 are now pending in this Application. Claims , 3, 7, 13 and 17 have been indicated as being in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 21 and 22 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 14, 21 and 22 have been amended, and claims 3 and 13 have been cancelled. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101:

The Office Action rejects claim 21 as reciting impatentable subject matter because it encompasses electronically and/or magnetically propagated signals. Accordingly, claim 21 has been herein amended to recite a computer program product having computer program instructions stored in a tangible storage medium, to more accurately reflect the nature of executable computer code stored in a typical form such as a disk drive or optical disk accessible by a computing device.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Independent claims 1 and 2 are herein amended per the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Specifically, the first network node has been clarified as a parent network node by reciting the first network node being a parent to the second network node.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Wilby, U.S. Patent No. 5,941,955:

Claim(s) 1, 4-6, 8-11, and 14-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,955 (Wilby, et al.) Applicant(s)

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respectfully disagree with these contentions and assert that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by any disclosure in the Wilby reference.

Specifically, the Office Action suggests that generation of the change relationship signal recited in claim 1 is suggested by Wilby at Col. 6, lines 3-7. Independent claims 11, 21 and 22 have been similarly rejected. Wilby, however, suggests a change command which indicates to a parent node that it should instead pass traffic to another node, presumable specified in the change command (col 6: lines 6-8). In contrast, the present claim 1 recites a change relationship signal having a sequence number. The change sequence number is operable for selectively updating the node relationships, as discussed in the specification at page 18: lines 9-25. The node relationships are selectively updated based on which change modification is more recent as indicated by the sequence number (23:20-23). Therefore, Wilby '955 does not show, teach, or disclose selectively updating the map of node relationships based on the sequence number in the change relationship signal. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 have been herein amended to recite a change relationship signal having a change sequence number, as already recited in claim 7, indicated as allowable. Further, claims 4 and 14 have been further amended to recite a change relationship signal having the change sequence number operable for comparison with previously received sequence numbers, to further clarify and distinguish Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Wilby '955 does not show, teach, or disclose a change relationship signal having a sequence number as claimed in claims 1, 4, 11 and 14. Further, independent claims 21 and 22, reciting similar features, have been likewise amended. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 21 and 22 are now allowable and it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C 102(e) be withdrawn in view of the above amendments and remarks.

Claims 3 and 13 have been indicated as having allowed subject matter and accordingly, Independent claims 2 and 12 have been amended to recited the

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subject matter of claims 3 and 13 in independent form. It is therefore submitted that claims 2 and 12 are allowable.

As the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher J. Lutz, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 44,883
CHAPIN & HUANG, L.L.C.
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
Telephone: (508) 366-9600
Facsimile: (508) 616-9805
Customer No.: 022468

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